

MINUTES OF THE  
WORK SESSION OF THE  
CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF BURLINGTON  
April 30, 2007

The City Council of the City of Burlington held a regularly scheduled work session at the John Robert Kernodle Senior Activities Center on April 30, 2007, at 7:00 p.m.

Councilmembers present: Mayor Ross, Councilmembers Jones, Huffman, Starling and Wall.

Councilmembers absent: None

Harold Owen, City Manager, present

Robert M. Ward, City Attorney, present

Jondeen D. Terry, City Clerk, present

Other Staff Present: Mike Williams, David Beal, Lisa Wolff, Tony Laws, Bob Harkrader and Rodger Burden

Others Present: Dr. Randy Bridges, Superintendent, Alamance- Burlington School System (ABSS)

Media Present: Tomas Murawski, Alamance News, and Bob Boyer, Times-News

A) Alamance Burlington School System

Dr. Bridges gave the following statistics about the ABSS:

- Enrollment - 22,361, increasing 200-300 kids per year
- Employment - 2,756 full time; 282 part time
- 34 schools
- 46% eligible for free or reduced lunch; cost is more to educate needy. All students are entitled to a quality education.

Dr. Bridges pointed out that change was mandatory for survival. He discussed the changing leadership at ABSS.

Mr. Owen and Mr. Bridges commented on the advantages of sharing facilities.

Dr. Bridges mentioned the possibility of a joint meeting with the ABSS School Board, the Alamance County Commissioners, and the Burlington City Councilmembers.

Police Capt. Mike Williams commented that the Police Department was working on ways to prevent emergencies in schools and to have a plan in place if those incidents should occur. He pointed out that School Resource Officers are being rotated throughout elementary schools. He stated that there are measures in place and that new ones would be developed and in place in 2008.

**B) Proposed Incentive Plan - Recruitment and Retention**

Mike Williams discussed an "Incentives Proposal for Service Areas Above and Beyond Normal Duty Requirements, for Bilingual Ability, and for Prior Military Service." Mr. Williams suggested additional compensation for staff in the following categories:

- Member of Special Response Team
- Canine Handlers
- Field Training Officers
- Crime Scene Technicians
- On-Call Animal Control Officers
- Criminal Investigations Division Investigators
- Junior Police Academy Officers
- Polygraph Operators

The overall cost of proposed incentives/compensation for fiscal year 2007/2008 would be \$78,261. Capt. Williams said the incentives would attract more applicants for those positions, allowing for even more rigid selection of the very best employees to serve in those critical roles.

City Manager Owen said the incentives might be a way to bring back pride to the Police Department. He asked the Councilmembers to consider the proposal as part of the budget preparation.

C) Proposed Plan to Restore Communities

David Beale, Planning; Mike Williams, Police; and, Lisa Wolff, Recreation, gave a presentation on how City departments could work together to improve the quality of the community. Listed below is a list of how each department could contribute:

Police Department

- Crime/Nuisance data collection
- Affected area identification
- Resident polling
- Nuisance criminal activity cards
- Crime suppression operations
- Community meetings/follow-up residential polling/  
Neighborhood Watch
- Status and progress reports

Community Development

- Housing rehabilitation loan assistance
- Qualifying public infrastructure projects

Inspections and Minimum Housing

- Update Minimum Housing checklist
- Increase communication
  - Council education
  - Community education through handouts
  - Police and fire leads
- Increase attention to junked cars

Zoning

- Restructure boarding house regulations

Public Works

- Streets and Sidewalks
  - Repair and replacement

- Ditch maintenance on ribbon pavement streets

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- Neighborhood bulk trash pick-ups
- Regular street light inventory with Duke Energy
- Adopt-a-Street Program
- Adopt-a-Stream Program
- Expand tree-planting program

#### Parks and Recreation

- After-school activities
- Youth and senior group activities
- Mobile community programs
- Fairchild field improvements for multi-use and expanded programming
- Improve lighting at all facilities for safety

#### Fire Department

- Risk Watch elementary education
- Community Watch education
- Fire code generated minimum housing inspections

#### Legal

- Review and update of relevant ordinances

Councilmember Jones said the key would be having a one-stop contact to report various problems, such as over-grown yards, crime activity, minimum housing violations, etc.

Mr. Owen reiterated that the entire community would benefit from such a program and that the only additional staff required initially would be a minimum housing inspector.

The consensus was that Councilmembers would like to see an action plan.

#### D) Boards and Commissions

Mr. Owen said that vacancies and applicants for Advisory Boards and Commissions would be distributed soon so that appointments could be made at the first meeting in June.

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E) City Manager Comments

Mr. Owen mentioned the following upcoming events:

Town Hall Day - May 9, 2007  
Budget Work Session - May 14, 2007, 6:00 p.m.  
City Picnic - May 15, 2007, 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

ADJOURN

Upon motion by Councilmember Jones, seconded by  
Councilmember Starling, it was resolved unanimously to adjourn.

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Jondeen D. Terry  
City Clerk